

The
Camellia Review



MRS. HOWARD ASPER

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Vol. 13

NOVEMBER, 1951

No. 2

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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Thursday of every month, No-
vember to April, inclusive, at the auditorium of the new library of the Pasadena
City College, 1500 Block East Colorado Street. A cut camellia blossom exhibit
is always held at 7:30 p.m., with the program starting at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$5.00.

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Meeting place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park	
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Meeting place: Ebell Club, Pomona	
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Date of meeting: 1st Thursday of each month	
Temple City Camellia Society.....	Temple City, Calif.
Meeting place: American Legion Hall, 127 N. Golden West, Temple City.	
Secretary: Lynn Timm, 2936 Daines Drive, Temple City	
Date of meeting: 1st Monday of each month	
Camellia Society of Orange County.....	Santa Ana, Calif.
Meeting Place: Santiago Park, Santa Ana	
Secretary: Harold Larson, 212 S. Orange St., Orange	
Date of meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month.	

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AS I SEE IT . . . in running back through camellia literature, the past history of parentage of camellia plants is sketchy, to say the least. Seedlings are "of unknown parentage," and well-tried plants are "of unknown origin." Now this either proves that the keeping of records on plants, particularly camellias, is a bit of bookwork that nobody pays much attention to, or else it proves that the "family trees" of camellias aren't very important. Or maybe it proves nothing. And maybe I, from my vantage point of a veteran of one year's experience with things camellianic, just don't know what I'm talking about.

But take horses, thoroughbred horses. Their pedigrees run back through generations; breeders wouldn't think of not noting down the dam and sire of every foal. Cattle, same thing. Of course, horses and cows are a little bit easier to keep track of individually than camellia plants, I'll grant. But any propagater will tell you that camellia plants have individual characteristics like human beings or animals. Even a bit of "temperament", occasionally, they tell me.

In the records of some of the fine old southern gardens, the notations run that "Miss Sally thinks that she remembers that her Uncle Shropshire told her that Captain Brassbutons brought this plant to Virginia in 1821." This, of course, makes fine romantic reading, with the mouth-filling syllables of old names, old

places, old times; but as historic record, it isn't worth a tinker's. Miss Sally's memory probably isn't what it used to be—so another fine camellia plant has to go down factually into the records as "of unknown parentage."

So things get into a very fine mess, as far as the naming of families and varieties is concerned, and someone with the background knowledge to be able to spot a true Hapsburg chin or a Hohenzollern lip has to come along and straighten things out. That's where the Nomenclature Committee gets in its very best licks.

All of which brings us to the point, that there is a new edition of the Nomenclature Book now in the works. It will contain about one-third more classifications than the present book, and will be the most authentic and informative book of the kind anywhere available.

If you have any friends who have been teetering on the fence about putting up the necessary for membership in the Society, here is the clincher that should convince them absolutely.

* * *

E. C. Tourje recently broke his standing rule about never giving any speeches, and went down to Temple City and gave them a rousing talk on Seedling Culture. Incidentally, his article on the subject in the Camellia Research Bulletin, issued last year, has now become "must" reading for anyone who contemplates giving up the time, energy and devotion necessary to pull a batch of seedlings through the nursing-bottle stages.

In his talk, Mr. Tourje recommended that before placing the seeds in the germinating medium, they be soaked overnight in water, and said, "This serves two purposes; it softens the hard outer coat, or shell and separates the better seeds from the

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Growth & Flowering Characteristics of 87 Camellia Varieties

By FERRIS S. BATSON

(Reprinted with permission of the author and the publication
from "Mississippi Farm Research," June, 1951)

PART I

CAMELLIA varieties frequently are chosen for landscape uses entirely on the basis of the appearance of the flowers. This is not enough information to guide one in selecting the most desirable varieties for various uses, since there are many other qualifications that should be considered in selecting varieties. Some important considerations include vigor, shape of plants, branching habit, characteristics of the foliage, season of bloom, flower production, tendency of flowers to "bull-nose" and susceptibility of blooms and plants to cold injury.

Little information has been published that will serve as a guide for selection and adaptability of various camellia varieties. Since such information is needed at this time, this progress report of studies underway is released, even though further study may reveal characteristics of certain varieties not apparent thus far. Since camellias vary in growth and flowering habits under different conditions, it is realized that some of the information given in this publication will not apply in all localities under varying conditions. The information presented was collected from experimental work conducted at Mississippi State College and from gardens and nurseries located in south Mississippi and south Alabama.

Explanations of the classifications given in the accompanying tables may be helpful in studying the characteristics of various varieties.

Vegetative Growth Characteristics

Variety: The variety name is the preferred name according to *The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature*, published by the Southern California Camellia Society. Commonly used synonyms have been shown in some cases, however, the preferred variety names listed are, in most cases, commonly used in Mississippi.

Rate of Growth: Information regarding the rate of growth will be helpful in selecting plants for various landscape uses. One should be cautious in selecting varieties that ordinarily have "weak" growth, since such varieties are more likely to be unsatisfactory and many are highly susceptible to die-back. Slow growing varieties are often desirable for certain landscape situations such as base plantings around smaller buildings, low border plantings, small gardens, tub specimens or small group plantings. On the other hand, fast growing plants are more desirable for landscape plantings such as borders or mass plantings in which fast growth and development are desired. Fast growing plants usually are easier to grow, especially for the beginner, and such varieties may be less expensive for the nurseryman to produce.

Shape of Plants: The forms occurring most commonly are illustrated by the accompanying drawing. The form of a variety will tend to vary some-

what under differing growing conditions. Plants growing in uncrowded sunny situations tend to grow more formally and compactly than in shady places. Globose, subglobose and picturesque forms are generally better adapted to use in group or mass border plantings. Pyramidal and ovate shapes are more formal and less widely adapted to use in landscape plantings. Although these types are sometimes used in groups, they are better adapted for use as specimens, allee plantings and formal areas. Too often camellias have been used as single specimens in the front yard. A more pleasing effect may be attained if more thought is given to the entire planting design of an area in which many varieties are used. More often varieties should be chosen that combine well with other plants to give a group or mass effect in which the shape of any particular plant is not so apparent.

Compactness: The degree of compactness will vary according to the age, vigor and conditions under which plants are growing. Plants growing as specimens in a sunny location will usually grow more compactly than plants in dense shade. Although vigor and environment affect the degree of compactness there is a definite inherited or varietal difference.

Texture: Texture of a plant is determined largely by the size of the leaves. Although there is not a great difference in the texture of various varieties, the difference is wide enough to be considered in selecting varieties for plant combinations. In most instances, plants of similar texture should be used together in a group. As compared with other species of shrubs, most camellia varieties are of medium coarse texture. Coarse textured plants are usually more pleasing when seen at a distance than at close range. Also such plants seem out of scale when used in a small area. When using coarse textured plants in base plantings around buildings, a more harmonious combination is secured with coarse textured buildings made of such materials as shingles, rough boards or faced brick.

Color of Foliage: The value of the foliage of plants is often underestimated. Attractive rich green foliage the entire year is sometimes more valuable than blooms for a short time. Fortunately the camellia is highly valuable for its dark green glossy foliage, colorful mass of flowers and long blooming season. The darker, glossier foliage of certain varieties is highly desirable for more refined areas. In combining various species of plants or camellia varieties into groups the color of the foliage should be considered. More often plants with similar color of foliage should be used together.

Cold Resistance: Camellia varieties vary in resistance to cold injury. This fact should be considered, particularly in selecting varieties for landscape plantings in north Mississippi or other areas north of the camellia belt. There are inherited differences in cold resistance of varieties as well as differences and cultural treatments of plants. The various cultural treatments that affect winter hardiness often cause confusion. One Pink Perfection variety, for instance, may be badly injured while another of the same variety a short distance away may suffer little or no injury because of the difference in the growing conditions.

Plants fertilized heavily during the growing season, particularly in late summer causing much new growth, will be more susceptible to cold injury than plants that have been fertilized moderately in the spring and have made new growth during spring only. Older plants are usually injured less than

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Some Interesting Things I Have Learned About Fertilizer

By JOSEPH G. HOLLAND

President, American Camellia Society

THIS is not a scientific article as I am not a scientist, I am not an authority, I am not an expert and I am not a professional. I am just a plain old countryman who loves Camellias and I spend practically all my spare time during the growing season working in our garden, trying to care for their needs, so that we will have healthy plants that will produce good flowers.

I believe that proper fertilizing will take care of most of the diseases that we have in Camellias, and for that reason I prefer normal, strong, healthy growth, rather than long, whippy growth. This latter type not only gets the plant out of proportion but tends to weaken it in every way and make it more susceptible and less resistant to all diseases.

With this in mind, I decided to study the chemical elements that are considered by plant experts as essential to plant life and then try to tell in a plain simple way just what these elements are supposed to do, and why they are necessary for plant growth and development.

I understand there are probably more than forty elements found in different plants, but not more than fifteen are actually needed to grow healthy camellias and a number of these are found in good soils that are rich in humus and will be made available as plant food by the addition of some elements named. These elements that the plants must have in soluble form are nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, calcium, magnesium, iron, manganese, sulphur, copper and boron and traces of most of these, as stated above, are in most rich soils.

Nitrogen is an essential element in all growing cells. It produces a healthy dark green color in the vegetative parts of the plant. It increases leaf, stem and flower growth, and it promotes rapid early new growth. The nitrate forms act promptly since they depend for solubility only upon the normal supply of moisture in the soil, and they are non-acid forming. The nitrate form is easily and quickly soluble in water and is at once available and probably does force a maximum first growth but it also leaches out fast and is not available for later development.

The organic nitrogen feeds soil microorganisms during their decomposition of low-nitrogen organic material thereby making this food available for the plant and nitrogen derived from organic sources is slower in action because of the changes the nitrogen must undergo in order to be of use to the plant.

It is my personal opinion that nitrogen derived from organic sources such as cotton seed meal, castor bean meal, animal tankage or by-products is better for camellias, as it releases the nitrogen more slowly as the organic matter deteriorates, feeds the plant over a longer period and does

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To The Ladies!

By EVELYN W. JOHNSON

Last winter we added Finlandia and Finlandia Var. to our collection. Like many other camellia collectors, newly infected by virus "Camelliae", we had at first avidly sought as many of the newest introductions as we could then acquire. Our collection lacked as a result, members of the Finlandia family as well as some other old favorites.

Family? My thoughts rocketed to possibilities for a camellia garden with members of famous camellia families growing in group plantings.

A visit over the telephone with Bill Woodroof soon established the following famous camellia family trees:

Dai Kagura Var., Dai Kagura Red, High Hat and Joshua E. Youtz. This family is an all time favorite. Good performance, beautiful early blossoms, variety of color; they, as mature plants recur in bloom later thru midseason.

Chandleri Elegans, Chandleri Elegans Pink and C. M. Wilson. Champions all!

Gigantea and Jacksoni. A small family this—but illustrious beauty is an understatement.

Of the Paeoniaeflora family these are justly famous offspring:

Pink Lady, Strawberry Blonde, Paeoniaeflora Rosea, P. Rubra, and P. Alba.

Donckelari has many named strains but Bill Woodroof says they are all Donckelari.

Adolphe Audusson, Adolphe Audusson Var. and the fabulous Audusson Special. These three are a family group worthy of a very prominent location to highlight any garden.

The famous Finlandia, Variegated and Red forms are joined in family

relationships by King Lear and Ethel Weber.

Mrs. Baldwin Wood, Thelma Dale and Charlotte Bradford are three sisters of the camellia world, as are another famous trio: Elizabeth, Elizabeth Pink and My Lady.

There is a lovely quartet of the Duchess of Sutherland family: Claudia Phelps, Ruth Boyer, Patricia Burks and Thelma Sanford.

Ville de Nantes, Ville de Nantes Var., and Lady Kay would make an interesting and beautiful family group planted together, either in the ground or in tubs or pots.

Hikaru Genji, priority name for Herme, long called Jordans' Pride is a wonderful flower and plant by any name, however unpronounceable! Space for this large camellia family would include Hikaru Genji Pink, Beauty of Holland, Colonial Lady, Bastita, C. P. Morgan, Doris Madalia, Egret, Lookaway, Powells' Pink, Spring Sonnet, Princess Lucille and Quaintance.

Lady Vansittart, Lady Vansittart Red and Yours Truly are another beautiful trio.

Baronne de Bleichroeder, Bleichroeder Pink, Mother of Pearl and Otome White.

Mathotiana, Mathotiana Special, Mathotiana Supreme, Red Wonder, Laura Dasher and Flowerwood should prove an exciting Camellia family to observe for many years to come.

* * *

Birthdays, anniversaries and the Christmas season for gift giving are especially happy occasions for us friends of camellias. There is no more satisfying sensation than the glow which warms the heart after the gift of a prized camellia to one who will love and cherish it.

I telephoned a local florist to ask if they could "gift wrap" a camellia plant. The charge for a professional

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SUMMER TRIP THROUGH THE SOUTHLAND

By RALPH PEER, Los Angeles

PART II

(Continued from the October number)

Jacksonville, Florida, has produced many camellia addicts. Although we stayed there only one night we were very fortunate to be able to renew our acquaintance with Mr. and Mrs. John Sewell, who have devoted almost every inch of their comparatively small garden to camellia culture. We had the unique experience here of inspecting their camellia growing activities quite late at night and with the aid of flashlights. Momentarily, we expected the police to arrive to investigate the strange garden activities after midnight.

Not far north of Jacksonville, and fronting directly on the Atlantic Ocean, is Fernandina, Florida, home of the Gerbing Nursery. The climate here is such that camellias come close to growing wild and without attention, which no doubt accounts for the wonderful reputation of the Gerbing plants. We spent a pleasant afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph May, present operators of this enterprise, and before leaving sat down with them to a local style fish dinner which will always serve as a gastronomical reference mark.

It must be remembered that all of this time we had been driving through unusually high temperatures, and under humidity conditions which were really painful to residents of Southern California. So far as possible, we had stopped at air-conditioned hotels every night, and thus gained some relief. We decided, however, that the time had arrived to take a rest, and accordingly arranged a two-day "holiday" at The Cloisters, a world-famous resort hotel fronting on the ocean and located on historic St. Simons Island near New Brunswick, Georgia. We had a delightful rest, as planned, but not knowing the extent to which we might be bored by such ideal but non-camellia surroundings we had taken the precaution to advise Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fendig of our arrival.

The visit to their home on Sea Island not many miles away provided us with an opportunity to inspect many historic spots. The Fendig home is a reconstruction of a very ancient edifice, located on a tidal river which is, I believe, a part of the Inter-coastal Waterway—the canal which runs from New Jersey to Florida. It is assumed that this spot once served as an Indian camp ground. Later it became the landing port for a nearby town. In more recent years an orange grove was established here, but has not amounted to much. Now the Fendigs are converting it into a camellia forest—or at least that is what it will be twenty years from now, judging by present developments. Mr. Fendig, a camellia enthusiast of very high order, is part of the enterprise known as the "American Camellia Catalog," and, in fact, supplies the descriptive matter printed therein. He is extremely interested in nomenclature problems, and is continually delving into the history of old varieties. At the risk of creating the impression that we ate our way from Houston to New York, I must again report that we found

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the typical Sea Island luncheon at the Fendig home quite in line with the traditions of southern hospitality. We saw paintings of a pink sport of a local white variety *Selma Shelander*, which when offered for propagation should prove outstanding.

Our next stop, Savannah, Georgia, proved to be one of the really great camellia cities. Camellia shrubs and trees are to be seen everywhere in private and public gardens. It was here that the first meeting was held which led to the establishment of the American Camellia Society.

Savannah's outstanding camellia citizen is without doubt Judge A. W. Solomon, who has been a camellia devotee for at least thirty-five years. His magnificent estate in the eastern suburbs contains many fine camellia trees and a very up-to-date collection of modern rarities. One of his early activities was to visit Europe and to bring back from Guichard Soeurs of Nantes, France, a more or less complete collection from their nursery. The survivors of this adventurous effort are now large trees, some of which are the parent plants from which distribution was effected in the USA. Through his extensive grounds Judge Solomon has created many fine vistas, all, of course, bordered by camellias. His collection of azaleas is likewise outstanding. He has surrounded himself with hundreds of rare, subtropical plants.

We stayed longer in Savannah than had been planned, and consequently had less time than anticipated to spend with our friends, Dr. and Mrs. H. G. Mealing of South Augusta, South Carolina.

The ancient but well preserved Colonial mansion which is the ancestral Mealing home is surrounded by a large garden area, much of which has been turned into a commercial nursery business. The Mealings grow many seedlings and have been singularly fortunate in developing new varieties. Of special interest is the large, white semi-double *Diddy Mealing*, now available in many nurseries. The pink sport known as *Pink Diddy* has been developed and will be offered in 1952. This region was treated to a particularly hard and prolonged cold spell so that the Mealings feel that their propagating efforts have been set back about two years.

Since the inception of the *Camellian*, Mrs. Peer and I have been corresponding constantly with the Editor, Mr. Frank Griffin. We were, therefore, very happy that we could pass through Columbia, South Carolina, so that we might meet him personally. He has become one of the most dynamic characters in the camellia world, not only because of the great success of the *Camellian*, but also on account of the extremely rapid growth of the *South Carolina Camellia Society*, which he helped to organize.

Before arriving in Columbia, our two-day visit had been well planned and we found that every minute was taken by camellia activities. During our first day we attended a luncheon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Calder Seibels, where we met many of the local camellia enthusiasts. Mr. Seibels is a vice-president of the South Carolina Camellia Society, and also of the American Camellia Society. Mary Seibels is, likewise, very active and contributes much of her time to local horticultural activities. She is a charming hostess and we greatly enjoyed the alfresco luncheon in the patio adjoining the Seibels' home. The pine forest originally growing in this part of Columbia has been preserved so as to provide shade for a very large camellia collection completely surrounding the house.

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OUR COVER FLOWER

Featured this month on our cover is the lovely *C. Mrs. Howard Asper*, for which the plates were loaned to us by Descanso Distributors.

Here, we wish to thank Desconso not alone for the loan of this month's plates, but also for the wonderful cooperation they have shown us at all times, in making color plates available for our covers, in supplying information for our articles and for all the help they are ready to give amateur camellia growers.

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NOTES, NOTICES and NEWS

NEW OFFICERS FOR POMONA VALLEY SOCIETY

At the first fall meeting of the Pomona Board of Directors, the following were elected to serve as officers for the coming year: Harold E. Pearson, president; Ed Heimerl, vice president; Hollis Tompkins, treasurer; J. M. Hartke, Secretary. C. D. Cothran becomes the editor of the "Camellia News," the society's bulletin. Committee Chairmen were chosen as follows: Charles Davis, publicity; Jack Rains, camellia show; Clark Thomas, gardens; Ted Allan, hospitality, and Mrs. Dorothy Martone, membership.

The Directors have set the dates for the Pomona Camellia Show as February 23 and 24, unless unforeseen circumstances should intervene.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

All officers of the Central California Society have consented to serve for another year, and have been unanimously approved by the membership. Homer Wilson was elected to be Show Chairman, with Keane, Pettey, Holland, Collier and Mel Gibbs on his committee. Dates for their show have not been selected as yet.

New meeting place of the society is the Elementary School Auditorium of Fresno State College, Weldon Ave. at the junction of College Ave., instead of the High School Auditorium where they met formerly.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Clemson Agricultural College, Clemson, S.C., has established a Camellia Test Garden. This institution, recognized throughout the agricultural world as a leader in its field, is located in the Piedmont foothills, in the northwestern section of South Carolina.

Clemson has a widespread extension division with many experimental stations throughout the state, and are leaders in pest control and disease control in farm products. They operate in cooperation with the State Department of Agriculture. Clemson has a staff which includes a number of ardent camellia enthusiasts, including President R. F. Poole.

Camellias will be tested not only for cold resistance, but also for hardiness, and other qualities. This will be no simple registration test garden, to determine the quality of individual varieties. The camellias at Clemson will undergo all forms of study and tests, and findings will be available to the camellia world. Records will be kept on various phases of the tests and this information should prove invaluable to nurserymen, as well as to amateur growers.

This camellia Test Garden will be under the sponsorship of the South Carolina Camellia Society. They will be glad to have the cooperation of all other camellia societies and will welcome inquiries from them.

Frank and Marie Griffin have their home not far away, likewise having the advantage of the original forest. Their property runs from one street to another, and that portion in the rear of the house slopes downward at just the right angle for proper camellia culture. This is an ideal camellia situation, and the Griffins are hard at work making their property into an outstanding camellia garden. Frank Griffin has been a camellia enthusiast for many years, but it is only since he undertook the publication of the *Camellian* that he has been bitten by the collecting bug. He is an expert grafter and has used up most of his available understock in an effort to have more of the new varieties than anybody else in South Carolina!

The success of the *Camellian* is a father and son affair—they work together in the real estate offices where much of the development of the newer sections of Columbia was planned.

During our second day in this friendly atmosphere we attended a luncheon given by members of the South Carolina Camellia Society in our honor at the Country Club. Camellia enthusiasts came from far and wide and we had the opportunity to discuss new and old camellia problems far into the afternoon.

While enroute to Charleston we stopped for a short time at the home of Judge Marvin M. Mann at St. Matthews, South Carolina. Judge Mann was the first president of the South Carolina Camellia Society, and has been a camellia fancier for at least twenty years.

A book would be needed to write the camellia history of Charleston, South Carolina. Both *Magnolia Gardens* and *Middleton Gardens* have a camellia history extending back more than one hundred years. At nearby Summerville, the *Tea Farm*, developed by Dr. Shepard about sixty years ago, is extremely interesting. We were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. Norwood Hastie, present owners of *Magnolia Gardens*, and in spite of the intense heat uncovered much valuable information about camellias and their history. At both *Magnolia Gardens* and *Middleton Gardens* there are hundreds of camellia varieties never named and not propagated commercially. The present owners feel that these camellias are not greatly different from other and similar varieties already on the market, and they are not at the present time making an effort to introduce varieties which even though very beautiful would not be sufficiently different. During the long

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existence of these plantations thousands of camellia seedlings have developed and they in turn have produced other generations of seedlings. Camellias grow wild in this region and it is quite an experience to walk through the camellia thickets which have sprung up. Some of the camellia trees are fifty or sixty feet high.

The old estate of Mr. Cannon Prettyman at Summerville contains a very fine collection of good varieties. An unusual item is a hedge developed from *C. sinensis*—tea plants brought from the *Tea Farm*. It is evergreen and is very satisfactory for hedging. Once each year it bears a crop of small, white, single flowers.

The Walter Allan Nursery is also in Summerville. Many fine, new varieties have been developed here and more are to come. Mr. Allan is a great camellia enthusiast.

After leaving Charleston we felt that we had passed through the camellia territory, only to receive a great surprise when we reached Wilmington, North Carolina, and visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Marbury. Their modern home, surrounded by extensive lawns and gardens, provides a wonderful setting for a fine camellia collection. Occasionally, cold winters are encountered and consequently a large glass house is used to safeguard the tender varieties which are planted in containers. There are, however, hundreds of large and fine camellias planted out of doors through the winter, and Mr. Marbury reported that there had been practically no cold damage in recent years.

At Norfolk where snow in winter is not at all unusual, we found a very extensive and very beautiful camellia garden under development in the pine woods adjacent to the Municipal Airport. This enterprise must be credited to the persistence and ingenuity of Mr. Frederic Heutte, the distinguished horticulturist who is in charge of Parks and Gardens for the city of Norfolk. Eventually, he will have tens of thousands of camellias growing under the pine trees in a beautiful natural setting, with small lakes as a background. Mr. Heutte is personally most enthusiastic about camellias and the results are to be seen by even a casual visitor to Norfolk. In the public gardens and around public buildings hundreds of camellias are planted. This has made camellias very popular and one notes that there are many new camellia plants to be seen around the new homes in the residential district.

There are many very fine camellia collections in and around Norfolk, but we had time to visit only one or two of them. The landscaping around

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the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alan J. Hofheimer consists largely of groups of camellias. I was assured by Mr. Hofheimer that only recently he had been compelled to almost double the size of his property in order to take care of additional camellias.

After tea and cocktails at the home of Mrs. Charles Grandy, we attended a dinner at the Yacht Club, arranged by the local Camellia Society. The next Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society is to be held in Norfolk in March, 1952, and already plans are being discussed to make this a memorable occasion.

A few hours before arriving in New York we stopped at Norristown, Pennsylvania, to visit Dr. and Mrs. S. Lehman Nyce. Dr. Nyce carries on camellia culture in the same manner as the enthusiasts in Boston, Brooklyn and Philadelphia who made the first importations from England. He has more or less three hundred plants enclosed in a fully automatic greenhouse which is attached to a wing of his home. During the winter this greenhouse is heated by a special thermostatically controlled oil furnace. In the summer it is thrown open so as to provide the maximum circulation.

In this far northern outpost of camellia cultivation a remarkable new variety has been developed and christened *S. Peter Nyce*. It seems that several years ago on a trip to the southern States Dr. Nyce purchased a plant which he presumed was a very fine *Nagasaki* and it has been so identified by many persons. The plant was shipped to his greenhouse and continued to grow in the ordinary pendulous manner of the variety *Nagasaki*. For no apparent reason a "leader" appeared at the top of the plant and went upward almost to the roof. Dr. Nyce noted that the leaves on this "leader" were about double the size of the leaves at the bottom of the plant. When blossoms appeared on this new and unusual branch they were fifty percent larger and more definitely marked than the blossoms at the bottom of the plant. Dr. Nyce has raised three grafts from this unusual mutation, and all of them have the same characteristics as the original branch.

Throughout our trip we found considerable cold weather damage at every point south of Wilmington, North Carolina. We noted, however, that the large plants apparently destroyed by the freeze were mostly sending out new shoots, and we also found that many old plants which had been severely damaged were compensated for this by throwing off extra heavy foliage and a copious supply of buds. We believe, however, that the 1950 freeze will gradually be forgotten and that there will be no permanent damage to camellia enthusiasm.

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plants only a few years of age. Temperatures of 10 to 20 degrees below freezing in the fall or early winter will cause more cold injury than similar temperatures in mid-winter after there has been enough cold previously to harden the plants. Sudden lowering of temperature damages plants more than gradual lowering of temperature over a period of 24 to 48 hours.

Quick thawing of plants causes more injury than gradual rise in temperature after a severe cold. Plants growing in the open which thaw rapidly in the sun following a severe cold are more likely to be injured than plants that thaw slowly in a shady place. Plants located on the north side of a building, underneath evergreen trees or other situations that allow slow thawing of the plants will be less subject to cold injury. Temporary cover placed over plants will be helpful, particularly in sunny locations, because it provides some protection against sudden freezing and considerable protection against quick thawing.

The relative resistance of various varieties to cold injury is shown in the accompanying tables. This information was obtained by the following procedure: Twigs 2 to 4 inches long, similar to cuttings used in propagating, were collected from plants in Lucedale, Mississippi. The plants from which twigs were taken, on January 19, 1951, were growing under uniform soil and cultural conditions. The plants were about 8 to 15 years of age. In most instances all twigs of each variety were taken from a single plant. The nearest weather station shows that during the period from November 1 to January 19 the minimum temperature was 18°F., the average daily minimum temperature was 35.2°F. and the temperature was below freezing 28 days during this period. These twigs were placed in cold storage at 20°F., 14°F., 7°F., 0°F., and -7°F., respectively, for 24 hours. Five to seven twigs of each variety were used in each temperature treatment. The temperatures were gradually lowered to the desired level over a period of 3 to 6 hours, the longer time being required for the lowest temperature treatment.

Thawing, following the cold treatment, was gradual; the lower temperature twigs were thawed over a period of approximately 6 hours and higher temperature levels in successively less time. Following the cold treatment, the twigs were placed in a greenhouse in medium similar to the usual method of propagation of camellias by cuttings. A week later records of the condition of each twig subjected to each temperature was recorded. Injury to twigs was apparent by discoloration of the foliage in most varieties. In a few varieties injury was indicated by dropping of the leaves. Leaf injury appeared to be a reliable index of susceptibility of twigs to cold injury since it was observed that where leaves showed considerable injury as evidenced by discoloration, the leaf buds and stems were also injured proportionately.

The results of cold treatments of twigs are shown in the classified list of varieties according to the relative resistance to cold. The hardiest varieties withstood 7°F. below zero with little or no injury whereas the tenderest variety, Alba Plena, showed considerable injury at 14°F. This indicates that the hardier varieties probably will withstand temperatures without injury about 20° lower than the tenderest variety under similar conditions.

(Continued on page 21)

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To The Ladies . . . from page 16

trim is under one dollar. I am sure it would enhance the appearance of the camellia plant very much.

Camellia plants are a perfect gift in time of sorrow. The lovely blooms can bring comfort and will express your sympathy to the family for many years afterward.

When you are preparing a camellia plant for gift giving, syringe the leaves thor'oly. If there are buds or open blossoms which would be harmed by the water, lift them one at a time out of range of the spray. If this is not possible a gentle rubbing of each leaf with a soft cloth will groom the plant effectively. The improvement in its appearance will justify this additional effort. Then a quick trip to the florist for that paper around the can and taffeta bow of the right shade to complement the blossoms and your camellia gift is ready for delivery.

Try the Sasanquas as gifts this season. Happily, the Japonicas and Sasanquas are as suitable for a lady as for a gentleman.

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The darker flowers indicate more sun tolerance. Sawadas' Velvety is one; Hugh Evans, Hiryo, Hichifukujin, Tanya and many more are excellent in exposed locations.

Ask your nurseryman for the growth habits of a particular variety. When a choice is made, make a memo of the directions to pass on with the plant.

I have seen the exquisite Maliflora Lindley as an espalier. There must have been four hundred blossoms out the day I beheld it last winter at Don and Blanche Miller's.



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AS I SEE IT . . . from page 2

ones which are of doubtful value. The better seeds—the big fat ones which germinate quickly and make rugged plants—sink to the bottom of the container, while the weaker ones and those which may take longer periods to germinate and grow, or possibly not germinate at all, float on the top of the water.”

He also recommended against keeping the peat rooting medium, or whatever, too wet, because it has a tendency to rot the seeds. “Damp but not wet,” is the word.

The floating and sinking part is the meat to the above; because it's a nice easy method of automatically grading the seed as to quality—and saving expenditure of unnecessary effort. The soaking in water part has been recommended before. Bill Woodroof (So. Cal. Bulletin, April, 1946) once remarked, “Mr. Gerbing says you should soak the seed over night in a glass of water, but as far as I can see, it works just as well without water. I have even left them lying around for six weeks, and had good results.”

In the “American Camellia Quarterly” for July, 1950, Mrs. Joel W. Mann of Valdosta, Ga., recommends “cracking the seeds slightly with a nut cracker near the eye,” and H. M. Butterfield, in the publication of the California Agricultural Extension Service of the University of California, “Camellia Culture in California,” says, “To hasten germination, the shell may be carefully cracked. Some growers bore holes in the shell so that water may be admitted easily.” (!)

Personally, I prefer to put the seed under the heel of my cowboy boots and just stomp!

* * *

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(Turn to page 23)

SOMETHING ABOUT FERTILIZER . . . from page 5

not force a lush growth, but normal strong growth. Organics carry a portion of minor elements which are essential for plant development. Leaf mold and stable manure carry hormones which act as a booster to the necessary elements.

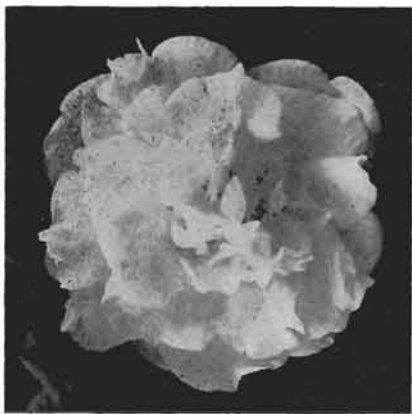
Phosphorus, known in fertilizer as phosphoric acid or super phosphate, is essential for all cell division, that is plant growth. It is also believed to influence early formation of the root system and early vegetative growth. It gives plants a fast start, hastens maturity and aids bud formation and development.

Potassium or potash is probably most useful as a neutralizer of oxalic acid, which is a by-product of the photosynthesis of carbon dioxide and water into starch, which can now be used as plant food. A deficiency of potash makes the plant more subject to diseases especially fungus diseases. Potash exercises a beneficial effect upon the vigor and disease-resistance of plants. It aids in the growth of strong stiff branches and promotes the production of sugar, starches and oils and improves the quality of the flowers. It also helps harden out the new growth so that it will not be seriously injured by early cold weather, and it helps the development and setting of the flower buds.

Oxygen and Hydrogen, the elements of water, and Carbon in the form of carbon dioxide, form starches and sugar. Remember, the plants get these elements from the air and water, which is taken in by the leaves. That is why it is important to keep the foliage clean and free from scale. The other elements are obtained from the soil after becoming soluble by proper watering and are taken in by the feed roots. I emphasize these elements and how they are obtained now as they have a prominent part in my final explanation as to how I think they are used.

Calcium is found in the outer walls of cells and gives them strength and adds to the vigor of the plant.

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Let us think of a camellia plant as a factory, but let us always remember this factory was made by God and for that reason is perfect in every detail. It is also automatic, in that each part does its work in the proper season and in regular cycles. Because of my lack of technical knowledge, it will be necessary for me to use very simple terms in trying to explain how I think our factory does its work.

For instance, during my boyhood days it was generally understood that the sap in plants started to rise in early spring and continued through the growing season, then in the fall season it began to fall and continued through the dormant period when all growth stops. I think the plant experts have decided that there is no rise or fall of the sap in plants. It does its work by transpiration, but it is the medium by which food is passed from one part of the plant to another.

We will now go back to our factory and see how I think it works. It has two distinct working sections each of them manufacturing food for the plant. The top section of our factory, or plant, is the foliage and this gets the elements such as oxygen, hydrogen and carbon dioxide from the air and water and manufactures them into starches and sugar. My idea is that the food not needed for immediate use is stored for future use, as the bottom section of our factory, or plant, which is the root system, is also at work manufacturing its part of the food supply from the soil, as all the other necessary elements such as nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium are obtained from the soil after becoming soluble by water.

Now that we are in the process of manufacturing our food, the sap takes over and acts as an elevator to carry the food manufactured by the roots to all parts of the plant for normal growth and development. Somehow, I think the leaves are furnished a little more of this plant food than is necessary for their use and they store it with the sugar and starches they have manufactured from the air, and maybe the chlorophyll, or green coloring in the leaves, with the aid of the sunlight, combines them into the proteins so necessary to all life.

Now the growing cycle is over. The root system, or lower section, has finished its job and will go into a rest season, or dormant period during which it does no work. Our leaves, or top section, will now take over and finish their cycle. I have assumed that the leaves stored the foods they manufactured that was not needed for growth together with some foods from the roots. This stored food is not needed by the leaves as they have finished their growth, so we use our elevator, the sap, to convey this food back to other parts of the plant to finish the development and opening of the buds and to the root system to feed it and strengthen it for its next cycle of work. You will note our factory never ceases work and it grows larger and more beautiful each year if you feed it properly.

I know this is a very crude manner of telling just what happens in the plant and I do not doubt that much of it is wrong. My only purpose in writing it is to interest camellia lovers in this part of the work and to induce some expert to explain it to us in as plain a way as possible.

Anyway, I like to think this is how it operates because it seems so simple.

CHARACTERISTICS . . . from page 15

In studying the relative winter hardiness of varieties in the tables there is no indication that color of bloom or season of bloom is an index of the winter hardiness of plants. The relative varietal hardiness of flower buds is often quite different from the relative varietal hardiness of the plants. Some varieties having the most resistant flower buds are produced on the least resistant plants; conversely some of the most cold resistant plants produce some of the least resistant flower buds.

Flowering Characteristics

Time of Bloom: The blooming season of camellias usually extends over a period of about 7 months, from September to April. In a landscape planting where several varieties of camellias are used, it is usually desirable to select varieties that will provide a succession of blooms throughout the entire season if temperatures are mild in winter. In areas where winter is likely to be rather severe it is advisable to use more of the cold resistant early blooming varieties so that plants will bloom before January and February when the lowest temperatures of winter usually occur. Some of the best varieties bloom in midwinter and late winter and these varieties should not be overlooked, particularly in areas near the Gulf Coast where blooms are less likely to be severely injured in midwinter.

Color of Bloom: The preference of the individual usually determines the color of blooms selected. A wide choice of colors is available to meet various preference and requirements.

Type of Bloom: The type of bloom of each variety has been indicated in the table according to the types illustrated in the accompanying drawing. In most varieties only one type bloom is produced; however, some varieties may produce more than one type. In selecting varieties for cutflowers uses, the type of bloom is usually important, but in landscape plantings the mass color effect of the flowering plant should be a greater consideration than the type of bloom. The landscape value of some varieties that produce single or semidouble type blooms is often overlooked.

Production of Blooms: There are inherited tendencies of each variety toward heavy or light flower production; also, there are several environmental factors that affect the quantity of blooms produced by a variety. Plants growing in dense shade tend to produce fewer flowers than those growing in sun. Under satisfactory growing conditions, plants highly fertilized with nitrogen and adequately supplied with water tend to produce more vegetative growth and fewer flowers. Although these environmental factors affect flower production, the tables indicate the inherited flower production tendency of each variety.

"Bull-nose" Tendency: "Bull-nose" is a condition that frequently occurs in which flower buds swell, show color and drop off the plant without fully opening. The condition occurs more frequently during mild winter when the last stage of flower development is rapid. During relatively cold winters when the development of flower buds is slow, there are few "bull-nose" blooms. The percentage of these blooms produced will vary with different varieties. The records on this tendency in the tables were taken during the mild winter of 1949-50 when conditions were favorable for "bull-nose" development.

Relative Cold Resistance: Records on cold resistance of the flower buds were taken from plants growing in a plot of land in Lucedale, Mississippi. These records were taken December 21-22, 1950, four weeks after plants had been exposed to a minimum temperature of 18°F. Buds of uniform size were collected on the north side of plants, bisected and rated according to the degree of injury. The flower buds of a few varieties were not injured by the cold while in other varieties different degrees of injury were apparent. Resistance of flower buds of various varieties to cold injury had been classified as shown in the accompanying lists. Varieties listed as most resistant showed little or no cold injury of the flower buds. Varieties having a preponderance of buds with 10 percent to 75 percent of total flower parts injured are listed as intermediate resistance to cold. The least resistant flower buds had a preponderance of buds with 75 percent to 100 percent of the total flower parts injured.

Note in table that varieties having a relatively large number of petals, such as the formal double type, are generally most susceptible to cold injury. The most resistant types include single, semidouble and peony forms. Color of bloom apparently is not an index of cold resistance since various colors are included in the most resistant varieties.

Bud Drop Following an 18°F. Freeze: During January and February of 1951 observations were recorded on the relative quantity of flower buds that dropped off the plants of certain varieties in Lucedale, Mississippi, following the cold injury. Note that bud drop among varieties was not always proportional to the degree of cold injury. Varieties that showed little or no bud drop even though the buds were injured by cold often produced a good display of flowers when the weather was suitable for the bloom to open.

Flowering Following an 18°F. Freeze: In many cases of rather severe cold injury, the flowers open as in normal development. Discoloration of the flower was often noticeable, particularly the lighter colored blooms; however, many varieties with dark flowers appeared to be normal if not examined closely. From a landscape standpoint, the display of flowers was often effective since injury was noticeable only upon close examination. Injured buds that develop into open flowers usually shatter easily and cannot be used commercially.

The second part of this article consists of tables, showing the flowering and vegetative characteristics of 87 varieties of camellias. These tables contain valuable information well worth preserving for the camellia fancier. Besides the customary tabulations of "rate of growth" and "shape of plant" these tables contain such hard-to-find data as "Bull-nose tendency" and "Bud drop following 18 degrees F. cold." Also there is a complete tabulation of the 87 varieties as to "relative cold resistance of leaves and twigs," and "relative cold resistance of flower buds." These tables will be published in full in the December issue.

AS I SEE IT . . . from page 18

standing, have disappeared from our pages recently. Now why is this? The only reason why an advertiser cancels out is because the sales returns from a certain medium no longer justify the expenditure in that medium.

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(Turn to next page)

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AS I SEE IT . . . from page 23

If you are the hermit type and aren't familiar already with Frank Griffin's fine publication "Camellian," which he gets out four times a year for the South Carolina Camellia Society, you really owe it to yourself to write in and get a sample copy of his magazine for free. It's really tops in the field of specialty publications, and always carries some good, sound information that the camellia fan can put to quick use.

Since starting in the camellia publishing business about a year ago, Frank has snowballed his magazine from 0 circulation to around 1200 copies per issue. He's one of those human dynamos, so I'm told, who never let up. No question but what Frank deserves a vote of thanks from all camellia publications editors for giving them the shot in the arm that induced them to snap out of it, and put some life into their publications so they wouldn't be left too far behind eating Frank's dust.

Frank's the first to admit he's no authority on the subject, and operates his own growing on the principle of "by guess and by gosh." But he's the type that goes right out and ropes the best authors, the best illustrators and makes up a mag. that is always interesting.



Anybody seen Rufus, my carrier pigeon lately? That doggoned bird hasn't been home in a month. Last time I saw him, he was trying to keep pace with a flock of wild geese, headed for Mexico. When he gets back, he'd better have a good article about Camellias Below the Border in his beat-up bill, or else he'd better hunt another dovecot, that's all.

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